

5.0 VALUES TO BE PROTECTED

This section identifies the values to be protected within the Shoshone River project area. Values are those features which are susceptible to damage from a wildland fire. This section presents an assessment of economic, ecological, and social values to be considered in planning fire mitigation projects or in fighting wildland fires. This section concludes with a discussion of the prioritization of those values.

5.1 ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC VALUES

The Park County Chamber of Commerce, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, and BLM RAMS data were consulted to identify the economic values in the project area. Agriculture, consumptive commodities, community infrastructure, and tourism are discussed. Field observations were used to expand descriptions.

5.1.1. Agriculture

Agriculture is a significant component of the Park County economy. The Park County Land Use Plan identifies sustaining the agricultural business as a primary goal and objective for the county (Park County Commissioners 1998). In Park County, there are more than 700 farms in more than 800,000 acres (USDA 2002). The market value of crops sold in 2002 was estimated at \$52.9 million for Park County (USDA 2002).

A small amount of agriculture was observed in the project area. Farming of alfalfa was observed along the north side of Highway 14, near Wapiti. The South Fork of the Shoshone River also has land used for farming. The Land Use Plan identifies the Middle Southfork and Lower Southfork planning areas as locations for continued agriculture use (Park County Commissioners 1998).

5.1.2. Consumptive Commodities

Consumptive commodities in the project area include timber, grazing, and watershed resources.

Timber

Timber harvesting is conducted on Forest Service and private land outside of the project area, but none is occurring within the project area (Dawson 2004, Mononi 2004). An active timber sale was conducted on BLM land within the Sheep Mountain community (BLM 2003). Some merchantable timber has been identified on BLM land on Rattle Snake Mountain. The project includes some thinning for a potential fuel break and a timber sale, scheduled for 2006 (Mononi 2004). The area may have 200 to 300 acres of potential timber that has not yet been quantified (Saville 2004a). If the drought and beetle epidemic continue, the BLM will likely look at other timber harvest projects in the project area (Mononi 2004).

Grazing

BLM-administered lands in the project area are included in allotments established for livestock grazing. The timing of the grazing varies and is generally on a rotational basis with either cattle or horses. The lower elevation areas are generally used in the early spring, fall, and winter; the upper elevation areas often have a summer grazing treatment included in the rotation. In the project area, there are 86 grazing allotments encompassing 124,000 acres (Saville 2004a, Mononi 2004).

Watershed

The project area is located within the North Fork Shoshone, South Fork Shoshone, and Shoshone watershed. Surface waters in the project area have received a classification rating by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division (2001). Class 2AB waters are presumed to have sufficient water quality and quantity to support drinking water supplies and are protected for that use. These waters are also protected for nongame fisheries, fish consumption, aquatic life other than fish, primary contact recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture, and scenic values uses. Class 2C waters include only permanent and seasonal nongame fisheries. Uses designated for Class 2C waters include nongame fisheries, fish consumption, aquatic life other than fish, primary contact recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture, and scenic values uses. Class 3B waters are tributary waters including adjacent wetlands that are not known to support fish populations or drinking water supplies and where those uses are not attainable (Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality 2001).

The assessment area includes a number of creeks which flow to the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River. Each water's classification is noted in parentheses. There are a number of creeks which flow to the North Fork of the Shoshone River (2AB), including Big Creek (2AB), Wall Creek (3B), Dunn Creek (3B), Trout Creek (2AB), Rattlesnake Creek (2AB), Trail Creek (3B), Lost Creek (3B), Canyon Creek (3B), Green Creek (2C), Rand Creek (3B), Whit Creek (2AB), Slack Creek (3B), Breteche Creek (3B), and Post Creek (3B). The South Fork of the Shoshone River (2AB) receives Bear Creek (2AB). The North and South Forks of the Shoshone River converge on the Buffalo Bill Reservoir (2AB). The Shoshone River exits the Reservoir to flow east to Cody.

5.1.3. Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure in the project area is described below including power, communication, transportation, manufacturing, water, fuel, healthcare, and waste resources.

Power

Pacific Power provides electricity to the project area. Distribution lines were observed throughout the project area. The WAPA substation, located approximately 18 miles east of Wapiti, is the only power substation within the project area (McDowell 2004).

Communication

Telephone and cellular phone service are provided to the project area by Qwest, Cellular One, and Verizon Cellular (Cody Country Chamber of Commerce 2004). Cellular phone towers are visible from the highway throughout the project area.

Transportation

The project area communities on Rattlesnake, Logan, and Sheep Mountains are accessed via Public Access Roads, County roads, and State/Federal highways (BLM 2003). Communities in the South Fork drainage are accessed via Public Access Roads and County roads (BLM 2003).

Manufacturing

No major manufacturing facilities were observed in the project area. The project area contains limited commercial development. Businesses such as convenience stores, agriculture, ranching, camps, resorts, and stables were observed dispersed throughout the project area.

Water Storage and Distribution

No public water service is available for residents within the project area; residents use wells or cisterns. One exception is the Buffalo Bill Visitor Center, which has water trucked in from Shoshone Municipal Pipelines. The Bureau of Reclamation operates a water substation, just east of the dam, which provides water to Shoshone Municipal Pipelines, a generating station, power plants, and an irrigation district. Additionally, Shoshone Municipal Pipelines has two stations that are located within the project area, an underground emergency pump station at 12 Hayden Arch Road, and a booster pump station (structure) at 4818 North Fork Highway (Anderson 2004).

Fuel Storage

Natural gas is not distributed to residents of the project area (Thomas 2004). Residents of the project area have propane tanks at their homes, which are serviced by Blakeman Propane, Inc. (Williams 2004).

Healthcare

There are no hospitals or healthcare facilities in the project area. Residents commute to Cody for these services.

Landfills and Waste Treatment Facilities

There are two means of solid waste disposal for residents within the project area. Some residents haul their own trash to the Cody landfill, located east of the project area at 7753 Highway 120, Cody, Wyoming (Park County Chamber of Commerce 2004). Also, many residents in the project area use a private pick-up service, Keele Sanitation (Keele 2004).

There is not a waste treatment facility within the project area. Residents have individual septic systems at their homes (Sennitte 2004).

Other

Within the project area, most other services are provided in Cody. Wapiti has a church, kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school, and post office.

5.1.4. Tourism

Tourism is a significant component of the economic health of the project area. Lodging taxes alone bring in more than a million dollars annually to Park County (Park County Travel Council 2004). The Cody Country Chamber of Commerce estimates that total visitor spending in Park County in the year 2002 was 183 million dollars (Bryan 2004).

Tourism in the area is seasonal, with peak visitation occurring from the middle of May until the beginning of October. The major tourist attractions include Yellowstone National Park, Shoshone National Forest, the Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, the nightly rodeo, wild horse tours and mountain biking on BLM land, fishing, and hunting in the fall (Bryan 2004).

Fires can have a significant effect on the local tourism economy and are a primary concern of residents (Morrison 2004). Cody is the gateway city to the East entrance of Yellowstone National Park. In August 2003, the East and Grizzly Fires burned more than 23,000 acres of eastern Yellowstone National Park. That same summer, the Norris Creek and Blackwater Fires burned more than 6,500 acres in the North Fork Drainage of the Shoshone River (High Country Observer 2004). Due to the fires, the East entrance to Yellowstone National Park was closed, which had a negative impact on the tourist economy in Cody. However, Cody is fortunate in that tourists staying there have an alternative in the Northeast entrance to the park. Also, while fires do impact businesses that used for nightly stays, businesses such as dude ranches that provide longer-term stays and alternative activities on-site are not as affected by fires (Bryan 2004). Gene Bryan (2004) of the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce attributes the relative success of the Cody tourist industry during times of fire to Wyoming Travel and Tourism's daily website updates, which allow potential visitors to be aware of current local conditions.

Recreation

The project area is a popular recreation area for both local residents and visitors. It includes developed recreation sites, opportunities for dispersed camping, hunting, water-based activities, and hiking dispersed throughout the project area, both north and south of the highway.

Portions of the project area are located within or adjacent to the Buffalo Bill State Park. There are two developed campgrounds in the park within the project area. The North Shore Bay campground is 9 miles west of Cody, on Highway 14. It contains 35 sites and is open year-round. The North Fork campground is located 14 miles west of Cody, on the Highway 14. It contains 62 sites and is open April 1 through October 31. Hiking trails and fishing are easily accessible from both of these campgrounds (Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources 2004).

The project area is a popular destination for fishing and hunting by both local residents and visitors (Hurley 2004; Saville 2004a). Hunting primarily occurs between October and December and the majority of licenses are issued for elk and deer. There are also licenses issued for big horn sheep, moose, upland game birds, and waterfowl (Hurley 2004). During the field visit, markers for fishing access were seen all along highway through project area.

Hiking and off-road vehicle use (limited to existing roads) are also recreation attractions within the project area on both private and public lands. Sheep Mountain, in particular, is a destination for hiking and off-road vehicle use by local residents and visitors (BLM 2003; Saville 2004a). The western boundary of the project area is adjacent to the Shoshone National Forest boundary where there are abundant hiking opportunities. The Table Mountain trailhead is located on Green Creek, at the Shoshone National Forest boundary.

5.2 ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL VALUES

This section discussed the ecological values to be considered in wildland fire mitigation in the project area, including ecosystem health, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, air, soil, and water quality, and noxious weeds.

Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Health

Overall, biological diversity and ecosystem health in the project area are good (Saville 2004a). Beetle-kill of the area's forests is affecting ecosystem health (Saville 2004a). Large areas of dead and dying trees were seen in the western portion of the project area during field work.

During field work, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and deer were observed on private land in the project area. Several residents also reported the presence of grizzly bears and elk, especially in the western portion of the project area.

Wildlife Habitat

The project area contains habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species (Saville 2004b). Yearlong and important winter range habitat for big game mammals including mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and antelope occurs along both sides of the North Fork of the Shoshone River valley. Sagebrush/bunch grass and mountain shrub/grass vegetation communities provide important forage for these species. The conifer timber located at the higher elevations provides thermal and hiding cover for deer and elk and the higher elevation rocky outcrops provide secure escape habitat for bighorn sheep. Antelope use the lower sagebrush-covered slopes. This area supports most of the antelope still remaining in the North Fork of the Shoshone River valley (Saville 2004b).

The current populations for mule deer and bighorn sheep are near the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's objective levels. Elk populations have been over the objective levels in recent years but have been reduced by extended hunting seasons. The small antelope herd remaining along the North Fork is included in a much larger herd unit, but an objective for this specific area would be to maintain and sustain the existing antelope population.

Upland game birds observed on public lands in the project area include sage grouse, blue grouse, chukar and hungarian partridge, and doves. The sagebrush/bunch grass habitat that is the predominant vegetation provides nesting cover and forage for these birds. Although no identified sage grouse lek sites have been located on public lands in this area, the presence of grouse during the spring period and good suitable nesting cover indicates that these public lands do provide sage grouse nesting habitat. Suitable nesting cover for partridge also occurs on this identified area. Doves are migratory but may nest in limited numbers along riparian corridors. Blue grouse are found at the higher elevations in mixed timber habitat. Numbers of blue grouse on BLM lands are low but increase on forested areas of the adjacent Shoshone National Forest.

Carnivore species that use public lands in the project area include: coyotes, mountain lions, black bear, grizzly bear, badger, fox, and weasel. Although no specific observations have been recorded, other potentially occurring species include: wolves, marten, bobcat, and possibly lynx. Most of these predator species are found in this area because of the significant ungulate and small mammal populations and the lack of human developments on public lands. Surrounding private lands habitat has been changed by human developments and year-round human presence.

Habitat on the public lands also supports many small mammal species and many species of migratory birds. Potentially occurring BLM sensitive species include: peregrine falcon, long-billed curlew, sage thrasher, sage sparrow, Brewers sparrow, Bairds sparrow, and white-tailed prairie dog. Most of these species are associated with sagebrush/grassland habitat types.

Some riparian habitat occurs along Slack Creek, beside seeps in the upper portion of the Slack Creek drainage, around Stonebridge Reservoir and along irrigation ditches that come out of the reservoir. There are no fisheries associated with any of these riparian zones on public land. Stonebridge Reservoir (all on private land) does support a trout fishery. Slack creek might have some potential fish habitat but the flow on the public land is minimal and there are barriers between the North Fork of the Shoshone River and the Slack Creek public land section. Prairie rattlesnakes have been observed at lower elevations, and blue-bellied lizards occur in rocky areas. No amphibians have been observed in this area but there is potential for toads and salamanders to be found in riparian zones.

Field observations were conducted in order to determine the dominant vegetation on private land within the project area. Sagebrush/perennial grasses is the dominant system throughout most of the project area. However, some communities also contain a fair amount of riparian/deciduous habitat, juniper, or limber pine.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) and Endemic Species

Grizzly bears and bald eagles are the only known threatened and endangered species in the project area (Saville 2004a). The forested areas along drainages on Rattlesnake and Sheep Mountains are potential grizzly bear habitat. There are winter roosting and perching sites for the bald eagle along the Shoshone River west of the Reservoir. The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf has been observed in the vicinity (Saville 2004b). The project area also contains potential lynx habitat. Lynx are known to exist on the adjacent Shoshone NF but have not been observed within the project area. The habitat in the project area would be considered marginal at best (Saville 2004a).

Grizzly bears have been observed on several occasions (primarily between May and June, but also in October) and a female with cubs has been observed in most years since about 1995 in this general area. Most of the lower elevation habitat does not provide suitable foraging or hiding cover for grizzly bears. The higher elevation slopes provide some forage forbs and grasses utilized by bears and timbered areas may provide suitable bedding and shelter sites. Primary use by bears likely occurs in spring and fall during green up and pre-hibernation periods and then only at the higher elevations. Ungulate carcass remains from winter kill or during hunting seasons may also be a food source for bears.

Wolves have not been observed to date on public lands, but have been observed in the North Fork valley. Ungulate use would also be the primary attraction of wolves to these public lands.

Bald eagles may occasionally cruise through these lands and could temporarily occupy the area if a food source such as an ungulate carcass or other carrion is available. This would likely be only short-term use and no known nesting or roosting sites are located on these lands. This area is not included in a lynx habitat analysis unit, and the lands being reviewed do not have suitable timber habitat for snowshoe hares and would not be considered important habitat for lynx. However, this area could provide a travel corridor and transitional habitat for lynx that could potentially use forested habitat on the Shoshone National Forest, but no lynx have been observed or documented near the area.

Appendix B lists plant and animal species of concern in Park County.

Air Quality

Air quality in the project area is generally good. The area is in attainment for all criteria pollutants. The closest non-attainment area is Sheridan, Wyoming for particulate matter (PM-10) (EPA 2004). Airsheds within the project area have moderate receptor sensitivity (BLM 2003).

The Washaki and North Absaroka Wilderness Areas located immediately west of the project area are Class 1 air sheds (EPA 2001). The entire project area is classified as a Class 2 air shed. Annual prevailing winds are from the north and usually carry smoke away from these wilderness areas. The Cloud Peak Wilderness area, also a Class 1 airshed, is located more than 120 miles east of the project area. It could be impacted from large prescribed fires during the winter time when prevailing conditions facilitate high lofting.

Prescribed fire projects require a permit from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

Water Quality

There are three Wyoming surface water classifications in the project area. Each water's classification is provided in Section 5.1. Several of the waters within the project area are Class 2AB, waters with sufficient quality and quantity to support drinking water supplies. Class 2AB waters are protected for drinking water and other uses. One water in the project area is Class 2C, a nongame fishery water. There are several Class 3B waters in the project area, those not known to support fish populations or drinking water supplies, but that can support other communities of aquatic life (Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality 2001).

Soil Quality

The mountain and river valley topography in the project area has resulted in soils formed from volcanic bedrock, shale, and sandstone (BLM 2004). Soils are typically well developed, productive, and susceptible to erosion. The erosion hazard over most of the project area is high and extreme. Erosion values were predicted in the Absaroka Fire Management Unit, which includes the project area, using the Forest Service Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) interface. WEPP predicted that erosion values following a wildland fire could average 9 tons per acre and exceed 45 tons per acre in a worst case scenario (BLM 2004).

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds can be introduced or spread as a result of fire mitigation projects, prescribed fire, or wildland fire. Park County does not have their own regulations for noxious weeds, but follows the Wyoming Weed and Pest Control Act of 1973. The Wyoming Weed and Pest Council listed the following noxious weeds and pest for Park County (Wyoming Weed and Pest Council 2004a):

black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.)
bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Tenore)
common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*)
redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium* (L.) L'Her. Ex Ait.)
showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)

The Park County Weed and Pest Control District manages noxious weed prevention and control in the project area. They established the South Fork Weed Management Area in 1991. This area includes the southern half of the Buffalo Bill Reservoir. It was established primarily to reduce dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica* (L.) Mill.) and to prevent the invasion of new species in the area, particularly spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa* Lam.). Both of these species are listed on the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council designated list of noxious weeds, although they are not found on the 2003 list for Park County (Wyoming Weed and Pest Council 2004b).

The Park County Weed and Pest Control District plans to establish a North Fork Weed Management Area in 2005. The purpose of this management area will be to respond to an increase in leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.) and prevent the spread of all noxious weeds in the area.

The Park County Weed and Pest Control District indicated that they have observed outbreaks of dalmatian toadflax after both prescribed fires and wildland fires (Parsons 2004). They are also concerned with the spread of spotted knapweed after any soil disturbance associated with fire mitigation projects, prescribed fire, or wildland fire (Parsons 2004). The District meets with agencies, including BLM, annually to coordinate weed control efforts. All mitigation projects should be coordinated with the Park County Weed and Pest Control District.

BLM has also identified the following weeds of concern in the Absaroka Fire Management Unit, which includes the project area (Saville 2004b):

Musk thistle *cardus nutans*
Hoary cress (Whitetop) *Cardaria draba*
Russian knapweed *Centaurea repens*
Spotted knapweed *Centaurea maculosa*
Canada thistle *Cirsium arvense*
Houndstongue *cygnoglossum officinale*
Dalmation toadflax *Linaria dalmatica*
Saltcedar *Tamarix Ramosissima ledeb*
Cheatgrass *Bromus tectorum*

During field work an abundance of bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Tenore) was seen in the communities north of the Buffalo Bill Reservoir. Also, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.) was observed to be abundant throughout the project area.

5.3 ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL VALUES

Local residents have identified a number of social values worthy of protection in the project area. This section briefly discusses social values including quality of life, aesthetics, private property, livestock and pets, livelihood, and historical resources.

Quality of Life

Local residents live in the project area because they value their quality of life. They value the open spaces, the views in the area, their solitude, and the seclusion that the area offers. Most residents prefer minimal interaction and interference from others, including governmental agencies. With respect to wildland fire, property owners have expressed concern that mitigation on private land is irrelevant without significant work by the adjacent Shoshone National Forest (Morrison 2004).

Aesthetics and View

In discussions with local residents, they identify the view from their homes as one of the most valued resources of the area. The topography offers residents and visitors spectacular long-range views of mountains, hills, and valleys.

Home and Property

Residents indicated during the public meeting that they are interested in protecting their residents and property from wildland fire. The project area contains a large range of private property including small, primary residences, large second homes, home businesses, ranches, and other businesses.

Air Quality

Residents value the local, good air quality primarily for the views it affords. The air quality also provides clean air for breathing without odor from pollution or smoke.

Livestock and Pets

Dogs and horses were observed within all communities during field work. Also, some homes in the South Fork Shoshone drainage have llamas.

Livelihood

A number of residents support themselves with small businesses in the project area. Motels, ranches, small businesses, agriculture, camps, resorts, stables and small stores were observed in the project area. The western portion of the project area contains several ranches and lodges (for example, Green Creek Lodge and Rimrock Dude Ranch) and home businesses (for example, construction). Home businesses are also present in the northern portion of the project area (for example, cabins for rent and an outfitter).

Local residents also commute to Cody for work. **Table 5-1** reports the major employers in Cody (Cody Country Chamber of Commerce 2004).

TABLE 5-1 EMPLOYERS IN CODY

Major Employers	Product	Number of Full-Time Employees
Cody Lumber	Lumber Products	47
Buffalo Bill Historical Center	Museum	104
Celotex Corporation	Dry Wall	67
Holiday Inn Convention Center	Hotel	70
Y-Yex Corporation	Ag Products	145
Wal-Mart	Retail	200
Marathon Oil (Cody and Oregon Basin)	Oil	90
School District #6	Education	375
West Park Hospital, Long-term Care Center, and Chemical Dependency Centers	Health	472

Table 5-2 lists the employment by industry for Park County in the year 2000 (Wyoming Department of Administration and Information 2004).

TABLE 5-2 PARK COUNTY EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Type of Employment	Percent of Total Employment
Farm and Agricultural Services	7.0
Farm	4.6
Agricultural Services	2.4
Mining	3.2
Manufacturing (including forest products)	4.4
Services and Professional	58.1
Transportation and Public Utilities	3.2
Wholesale Trade	2.1
Retail Trade	17.0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	7.1
Services (Health, Legal, Business, Others)	28.7
Construction	8.4
Government	18.9

Cultural/Historical Sites and Features

A variety of inventories to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources have been conducted in the planning area over the last 20 years (Chase 2004). These inventories have been conducted in response to energy-, highway-, range-, and realty-related activities requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Inventories have identified many known sites of both prehistoric and Historic ages. Approximately 40 percent of the known sites have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and approximately 40 percent of the known sites have been determined not eligible for the National Register. The remaining sites have their eligibility for the National Register listed as unknown.

The known sites occur throughout the planning area. Known site types provide a cross section of Wyoming and Big Horn Basin Archaeology and range in age from 11,000 years ago to relatively recent Historic time. Known prehistoric site types include camp/habitation sites, lithic scatters, cairns, sites with ceramics, rock alignments, isolated hearths, trails, stone circles, quarries, graves, and rock art. There are likely additional types which have not yet been identified, and there are many more known sites that have not yet been recorded or evaluated. Known Historic period sites types include a dam, ditches and canals, trails and roads, stage and wagon routes, bridges, homesteads, corrals and livestock facilities, barns, oil and gas facilities, trash dumps, graves/cemetery, and historic inscriptions. It is also likely that other Historic period site types exist but have not yet been identified and there are many more known sites that have not yet been recorded or evaluated.

The true extent and nature of archaeological and historical resources in the project is not known because the area has not been completely or systematically inventoried. Inventories will continue to be conducted in response to land use applications on public lands.

Illegal collection of artifacts (both prehistoric and Historic), defacement of rock art and Historic inscriptions, illegal digging in prehistoric and Historic sites (aka Pot Hunting), rock collecting, recreational activities (both controlled and uncontrolled), livestock operations, construction, and other legal and illegal activities have contributed significantly to the degradation of the resource in the project area.

In addition to the resources on public lands, the landowner at 108 Green Creek reported petroglyphs on the property during field work.

5.4 PRIORITIZED VALUES TO BE PROTECTED

The Greystone Anchor Point team has identified five values to be protected as priorities in the project area. Any ranking process for values is inherently subjective and should be continuously updated by land managers.

Protection of life and fire fighter safety are always the highest priority in fire management. Based on the discussion of values above, the following resources should also be prioritized in fire planning:

- Watershed – Water is a precious and finite resource throughout the west. Fires have the potential to cause soil erosion and sedimentation of water resources.
- Tourism – Tourism is a significant economic component of the local economy. Wildland fires that deter tourists from the project area can have a detrimental effect on the area's businesses, residents, and economy.
- Private property and infrastructure – Destruction of private property or infrastructure in the project area would have a significant economic and social impact on local residents and businesses.
- Aesthetics – Residents and visitors value the project area for its open spaces and views. Wildland fires can affect these views both through altered landscape and visible smoke.
- Recreation – Both residents and visitors use recreation resources throughout the project area. Wildland fires can destroy recreation opportunities and prevent access to recreation areas.